

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 3, 2005. Claims 1 to 20 are now pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 13, 15, 17 and 20 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to for a lack of section headings. The specification has been amended to include section headings. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 was objected to. Without conceding the correctness of the objection, the language in question has been clarified by amendment as recited above. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,940,372 (Bertin), Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bertin, and Claim 10 was rejected under § 103(a) over Bertin in view of Europe 0 837 579 (Saito). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to controlling devices in a network. According to one aspect of the invention, in order to actuate, from a first node, any host based on operating commands transmitted by a control interface attached to a second node to which the host is connected, a search signal containing information representing technical features of a host to be actuated is transmitted. A candidate host is then identified based on the technical features and the host candidate is started up. If the candidate host proves not to be the host to be actuated, a search signal is transmitted again to continue the search, whereas, if the host does prove to be the host to be actuated, operating commands are sent to it by means of the control interface, which also interrupts the search.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a method of managing a communication network comprising a sub-network having communication nodes interconnected by links conveying digital signals, and a plurality of hosts to exchange data via the sub-network, wherein, in order to actuate, from a first node, any host based on operating commands transmitted by a control interface attached to a second node to which the host is connected, the method comprises the steps of transmitting a search signal containing information representing technical features of a host to be actuated from the first node in a direction of the nodes in the network including the first node, identifying a candidate host, which may be the host to be actuated on the basis of compatibility between the technical features of this candidate host and the technical features indicated in the search signal, and starting this host candidate by means of a control interface attached to the node to which the candidate host is connected, wherein, if this candidate host proves not to be the host to be actuated, a search signal is transmitted once again in order to continue the search, whereas, if this host does prove to be the host to be actuated, operating commands are sent to it by means of the control interface, which also interrupts the search.

Amended independent Claim 5 is a method of determining technical features in a communication network comprising a sub-network having communication nodes interconnected by links conveying digital signals, and a plurality of hosts to exchange data via the sub-network, at least one host amongst the hosts exchanging signals by means of a data interface and being controlled by means of a control interface, the method comprising analyzing a technical feature of the data interface, and obtaining certain technical features to control this at least one host based on the analysis.

Amended independent Claim 6 is a communication node that forms part of a communication network comprising a sub-network having communication nodes interconnected by links conveying digital signals, and a plurality of hosts able to exchange data via the sub-network, the node comprising at least one data interface for connection to a host to exchange signals, at least one control interface to transmit operating commands to the host, and a unit for supplying signals representing these operating commands received from other nodes to the control interface, wherein the unit supplies the signals based on the data interface connected to the host.

Amended independent Claim 7 is a communication node that forms part of a communication network comprising a sub-network having communication nodes interconnected by links conveying digital signals, and a plurality of hosts to exchange data via the sub-network, the node comprising at least one receiver to receive operating commands intended for any host in the network, and a unit to produce signals representing these operating commands and being transmitted to other nodes, wherein the unit produces the signals based on a technical feature of the host.

Newly-added independent Claim 13 is a communication node that forms part of a communication network comprising a sub-network consisting of communication nodes interconnected by links conveying signals, and a plurality of hosts being able to exchange data via the sub-network, the node comprising means for comparing technical features indicated in a received search signal with technical features of a host to which the node is connected, and a control interface that starts up and operates the host based on a comparison result by the comparing means.

Newly-added independent Claim 15 is a communication node that forms part of a communication network comprising a sub-network consisting of communication

nodes interconnected by links conveying digital signals, and a plurality of hosts to exchange data via the sub-network, the node comprising means for transmitting to all nodes in the network a search signal containing information representing technical features of a host to be actuated, and means for sending operating commands to the host to be actuated.

Newly-added independent Claim 17 is a communication apparatus comprising a wireless communication means for wirelessly communicating with another wireless communication apparatus, a wired communication means for communicating with another apparatus, receiving means for receiving, by said wireless communication means, instruction signals for instructing to search for an apparatus possessing a predetermined technical feature, and searching means for searching, by said wired communication means, the apparatus possessing the predetermined technical features based on the received instruction signal.

Newly-added independent Claim 20 is a method for searching for an apparatus possessing a predetermined technical feature by a communication apparatus, comprising a wireless receiving step of wirelessly receiving an instruction signal for instructing to search for an apparatus possessing the predetermined technical feature, and a searching step of searching for the apparatus possessing the predetermined technical feature based on the received instruction signal.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of searching for a host based on technical features of the host transmitted by a control interface, and controlling the host with commands transmitted by the control interface.

Bertin is merely seen to disclose a system for selecting a communication path based on both reserved and non-reserved connections. According to the patent, a communication path for transmitting packets is determined according to weighing functions, including both reserved and non-reserved links, in order to determine the fastest path for transmitting packets. However, Bertin is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of searching for a host based on technical features of the host transmitted by a control interface, and controlling the host with commands transmitted by the control interface.

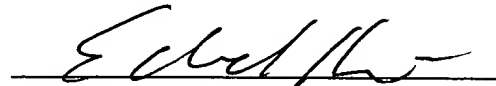
Saito is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Bertin, would have disclosed or suggest the present invention. In this regard, Saito is merely seen to disclose a home network that includes a data transfer control device and a relay device. However, Saito is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of searching for a host based on technical features of the host transmitted by a control interface, and controlling the host with commands transmitted by the control interface.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 1 to 20 are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Edward A. Kmett', is written over a horizontal line.

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